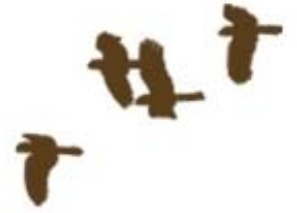




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The next 25 years

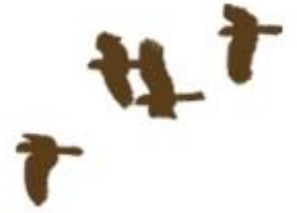
Challenges and Opportunities

Ian Lowe





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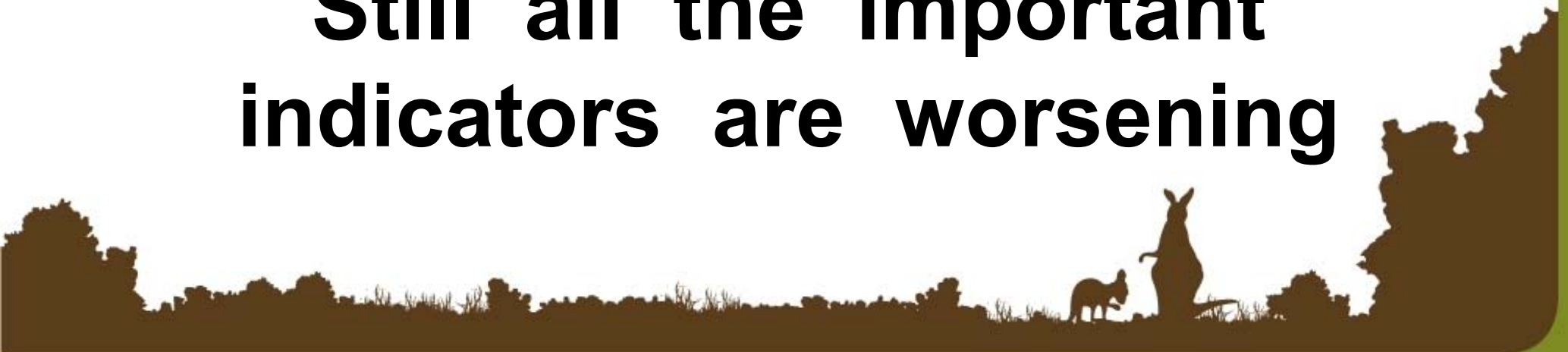


Nearly 50 years awareness

35 Years of environmental law

25 Years of EDOs

**Still all the important
indicators are worsening**



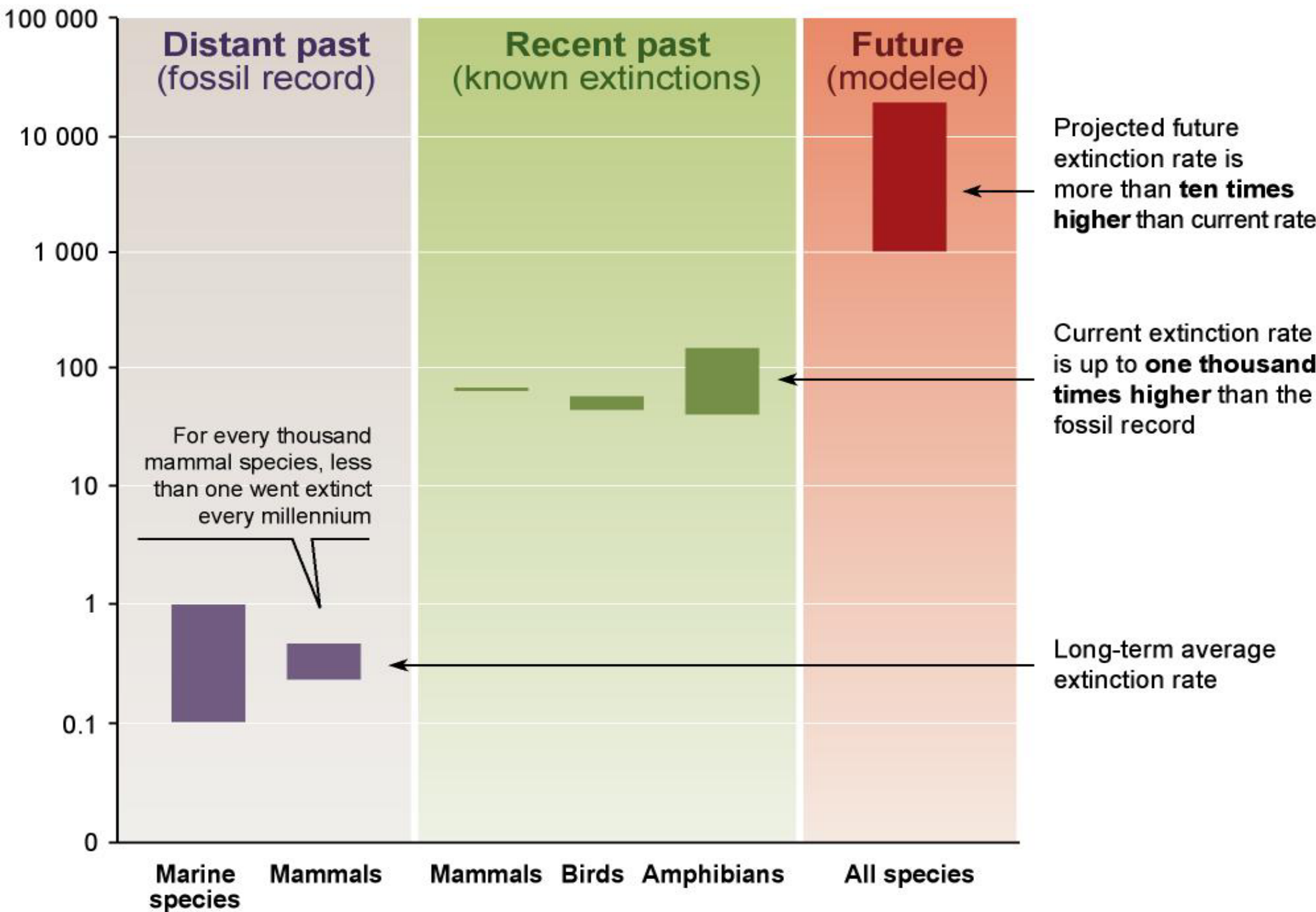
SoE 1, 1996: major challenges

SoE 2, 2001: all getting worse

SoE 3, 2006: still getting worse

**MAP 1-3: all indicators worse
except urban air quality**

Extinctions per thousand species per millennium



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

Increased likelihood of non-linear changes

There is *established but incomplete* evidence that our impacts on ecosystems are increasing the likelihood of non-linear changes ... with important consequences for human well – being.

Millennium Assessment Report 2005

An example of non-linear change



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

**Though we have
made important
gains, the present
system has critical
flaws**

Defects of present system

- **Weighted to economic development**
- **Fails to consider cumulative impacts**
- **Deals poorly with scientific evidence**
- **Rarely uses precautionary principle**
- **Cannot handle climate change etc.**
- **Privileges this generation over future**
- **Doesn't verify earlier studies, decisions**
- **Rarely enforces conditions imposed**



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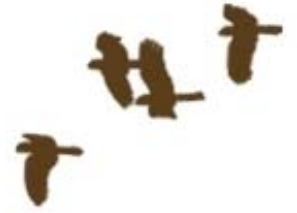


**And the goalposts
sometimes get
moved when we
look like scoring !**





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**What can we
expect in the
next 25 years ?**



**Impacts of growing
population**

Further climate change

Accelerating loss biodiversity

“a surprise – rich future”

**Increasing community
concern?**



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STOP CRIME

An approach for the next 25 years



Scientific panels informing process

Transfer burden of proof

Overhaul standard of proof: no
reasonable doubt

Past advice evaluated

Cumulative impacts explicitly considered

Read consideration of future generations

Independent assessment

Monitoring in the light of claims

Enforcement of conditions

What is impeding this ?

- **The legal system embodies community values**
- **While we esteem economic growth above environmental integrity and social cohesion, so will the law**
- **Shape civilised values rather than hope legal palliatives might slow impacts of inappropriate values**

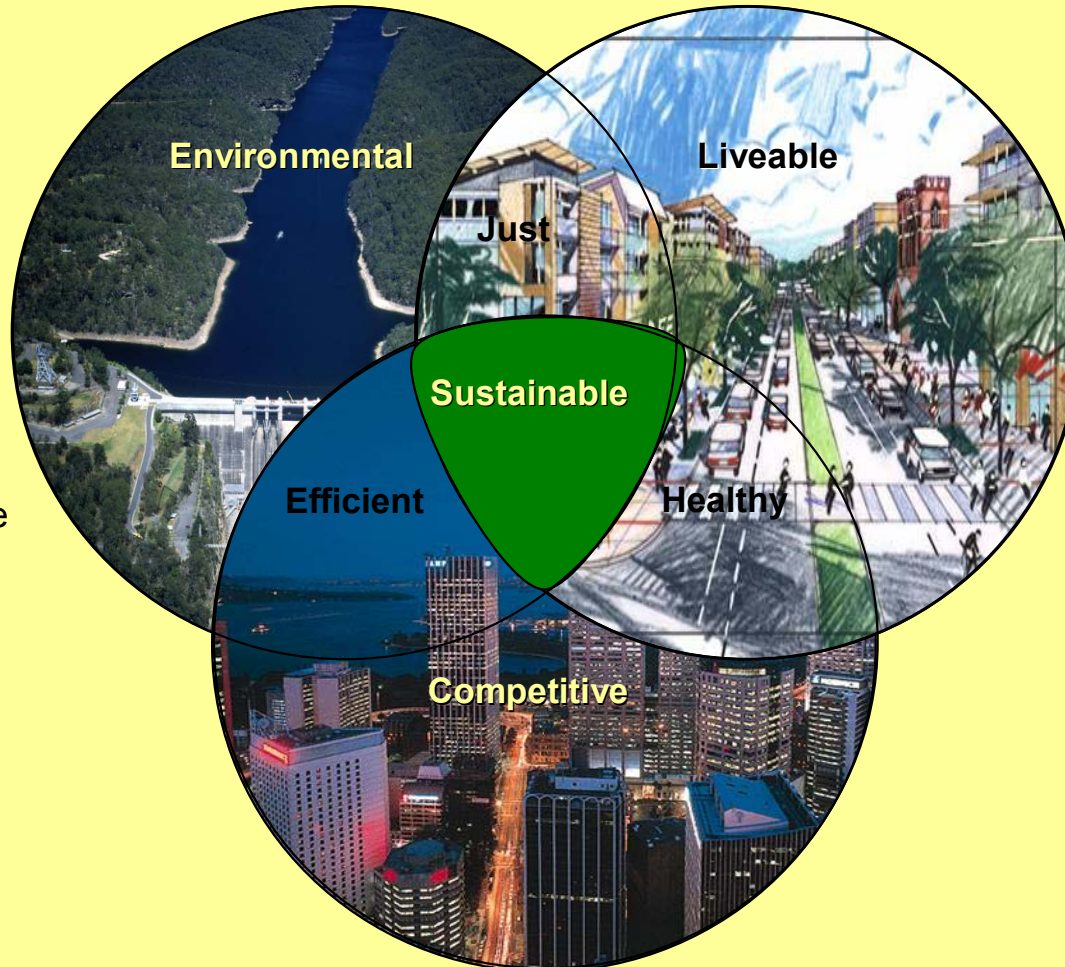
Vision for a Sustainable City

Sustainability

Sustainability is about living within our means. It is about managing our consumption of resources and balancing environmental, economic and social outcomes. It means improving our quality of life, but making that improvement without leaving a burden on the future generations.

Looking after our Environment

Environmental Sustainability is about reducing our impact on the environment by protecting our air, water and land, our native flora and fauna. It means reducing the load on our natural resources, such as water and fuels for energy, and decreasing our production of waste.



A Better Place to Live

Liveability is about making Sydney a better place to live. It means being able to walk to your corner shop, local school, park or bus stop, as well as providing us with a choice of housing that meets our needs.

Supporting our Economy

Competitiveness is about supporting Sydney's role as a Global city, and ensuring our city's long term economic prosperity. It means providing quality infrastructure and services to service our jobs and the economy, and supporting urban centres

SOCIETY

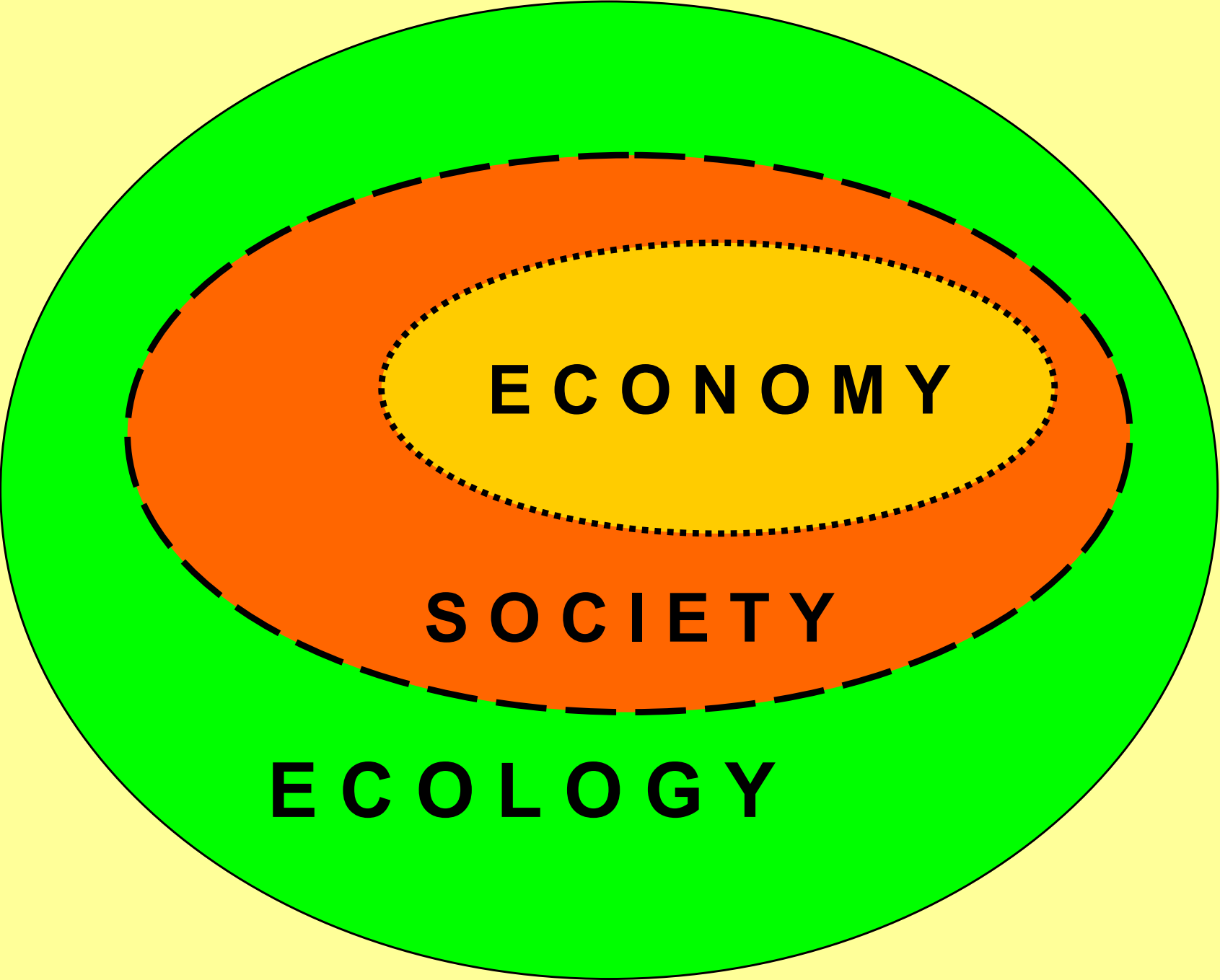
ENVIRT

ECONOMY

Markets give us things
many of us want

**Natural systems give
us things we all really
need**





ECONOMY

SOCIETY

ECOLOGY

New suite of values

- **Domination of nature becomes *ecological sensitivity***
- **Consumerism replaced by *quality of life***
- **Individualism -> *human solidarity***



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What we do *today*
will determine the
sort of world we
live in *tomorrow*



**Nous ferons
changer le monde !**

**Si ce n'est pas toi, mon
petit, qui commencera
changer le monde ?**

Qui le fera ?

Conclusion

- **Despite all our efforts, natural values still in decline**
- **We could envisage a much better legal framework**
- **Law embodies our values**
- **So need values compatible with sustainable future**
- **Our moral responsibility to other species and to future generations**

